(b) if so, the amount of grant-in-aid sought for during 2002-2003 to strengthen the Government Central Pharmacy, Bangalore, which is manufacturing Ayurvedic and Unani drugs; and

(c) whether Government propose to sanction the grant-in-aid sought for?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka applied for grant-in-aid for strengthening of their pharmacy under centrally sponsored scheme. The Government has sanctioned Rs. 55 lakhs as grant-in-aid for the year 2000-2001.

No grant has been asked for the year 2002-2003.

Vacancies of Auxiliary Nurses

1151. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of vacancies of Auxiliary Nurses in the reserved category of OBC have been lying vacant in AIIMS, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) whether as per Government policy, such reserved vacancies should be filled up within the stipulated time; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by the concerned Hospital authorities to fill the reserved quota of OBC?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Amendment in PFA Act

1152. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring imported food items within the purview of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act;

(b) whether Government have assured that the proposed amendment

to the Act would cover the cases of colour in juices, frozen dessert and tap water, etc.; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Imported food items are required to meet the standards prescribed in the Rules made under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, for all the products listed therein.

Illegal trade of human organs

†1153. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'Manav Ang Vyapar Mein Bollywood Va Rajneeti Se Juri Hastian Bhi Lipta', which appeared in Dainik Jagaran, dated the 23rd January, 2003;

(b) whether this has also come to the notice that the said gang has been involved in the illegal trade of human organs since 1997; and

(c) if so, the number of persons who have fallen victim to this gang in the last three years alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Treatment of pensioners in private hospitals

1154. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government pensioners are allowed to obtain medical treatment from the private hospitals of their choice which are approved by the CGHS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that CGHS dispensaries do not issue medicines to such patients on the ground that they had received orders

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.